

**THE GROUPED PARISHES OF  
ANNAHILT & MAGHERAHAMLET  
1982 – 2022**

**A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY COMMUNION**



**TO MARK THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
GROUPING OF THE PARISHES**

**IN THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, ANNAHILT  
ON SUNDAY 12 JUNE 2022  
AT 10.00AM**

**PRESIDENT & PREACHER: THE RECTOR  
THE REVD CANON ROBERT HOWARD**

**ORDER OF SERVICE**

*Processional Hymn CH 321*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,  
early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;  
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty;  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
God everlasting through eternity.

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,  
though the sinful human eye thy glory may not see,  
only thou art holy: there is none beside thee  
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty,  
all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;  
holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty;  
God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

*The Rector welcomes all present and says:*

Beloved in Christ, through the years Almighty God has moved his people to set apart places for the Ministry of His Word and Sacraments. With gratitude for the fellowship of those who have worshipped in this Church of the Ascension, Annahilt and in Magherahamlet Parish Church, we rejoice as we gather to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grouping of the two parishes; and to render thanks to Almighty God for the great benefits we have received during these years of Christian Worship and Service; and to ask those things that are necessary for the continuing life and witness of our two sister Churches.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all

**All: And also with you**

‘Round the throne of God, day and night they never cease to sing,  
‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come’. *Revelation 4 : 8*

‘O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known his deeds among the people. Sing to him, sing praise to him: tell of all his marvellous works.’ *Psalm 105 : 1,2*

*All:*

**Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name: through Christ our Lord. Amen**

*Penitence*

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets. Matt. 22:37-39

**Lord, have mercy on us, and write these your laws in our hearts.**

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to intercede for us in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us then confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God’s commandments, and to live in love and peace:

*Kneel*

*Silence*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned in thought and word and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may walk in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Stand*

*(All Sing)*

**Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen**

*The Collect of the Day*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:  
Keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;  
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Old Testament Reading is from the book of Proverbs Chapter 8 beginning at verse 1

8 Does not wisdom call,  
and does not understanding raise her voice?

<sup>2</sup> On the heights, beside the way,  
at the crossroads she takes her stand;

<sup>3</sup> beside the gates in front of the town,  
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:

<sup>4</sup> ‘To you, O people, I call,  
and my cry is to all that live.

<sup>22</sup> The LORD created me at the beginning\* of his work,\*  
the first of his acts of long ago.

<sup>23</sup> Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning of the earth.

<sup>24</sup> When there were no depths I was brought forth,  
when there were no springs abounding with water.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains had been shaped,  
 before the hills, I was brought forth—  
<sup>26</sup> when he had not yet made earth and fields,  
 or the world's first bits of soil.  
<sup>27</sup> When he established the heavens, I was there,  
 when he drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
<sup>28</sup> when he made firm the skies above,  
 when he established the fountains of the deep,  
<sup>29</sup> when he assigned to the sea its limit,  
 so that the waters might not transgress his command,  
 when he marked out the foundations of the earth,  
<sup>30</sup> then I was beside him, like a master worker;  
 and I was daily his delight,  
 rejoicing before him always,  
<sup>31</sup> rejoicing in his inhabited world  
 and delighting in the human race.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

*Psalm 8*

*f* 1 O | Lord our | Governor: how excellent is thy | Name in | all the  
 | world!  
*mf* 2 Thou that has set thy glory a | bove the | heavens: out of the  
 mouth of very babes and sucklings hast | thou or | dain-ed | strength,  
 3 Because | of thine | enemies: that thou mightest still the | enemy |  
 and the a | venger.  
 4 When I consider thy heavens even the | works of thy | fingers: the  
 moon and the | stars which | thou hast or | dain-ed;  
 5 What is man that thou art | mindful of | him: and the son of man |  
 that thou | visitest | him?  
 6 Thou madest him | lower than the | angels: to | crown him with |  
 glory and | worship.  
 7 Thou makest him to have dominion of the | works of thy | hands:  
 and thou hast put all things in sub | jection | under his | feet;  
 8 All | sheep and | oxen: yea | and the | beasts of the | field;  
 9 The fowls of the air and the | fishes of the | sea: and whatsoever |  
 walketh through the | paths of the | seas.  
*f* 10 O | Lord our Governor: how excellent is thy name in | all the |  
 world!  
 Glory to the Father, and | to the | Son and | to the | Holy | Spirit;  
 As it was in the be | ginning, is | now, and shall be for | ever.  
 | A | men.

The Epistle is from Saint Paul's letter to the Romans Chapter 5 beginning at verse 1

5 Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we\* have peace with  
 God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we have  
 obtained access\* to this grace in which we stand; and we\* boast in  
 our hope of sharing the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but  
 we\* also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces  
 endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character  
 produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's  
 love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that  
 has been given to us.

This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God**

*Gradual Hymn CH 517*

Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
 let me be as Christ to you.  
 Pray that I may have the grace to  
 let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,  
 and companions on the road;  
 we are here to help each other  
 walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you  
 in the night-time of your fear;  
 I will hold my hand out to you,  
 speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;  
 when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
 I will share your joy and sorrow  
 till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven  
 we shall find such harmony,  
 born of all we've known together  
 of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant,  
 let me be as Christ to you?  
 Pray that I may have the grace to  
 let you be my servant, too.

*All remain standing for the reading of the Gospel.*

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ according to Saint John  
Chapter 16 beginning at verse 12

**All sing: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

12 'I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup>When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. <sup>14</sup>He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. <sup>15</sup>All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

**All Sing: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

*The Sermon* The Rector

*The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

***The Rector says:***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you have promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith.

Lord of your people:

We pray for your Church in all the world, for this diocese and for David our bishop. Following our diocesan cycle of prayer we remember the Parish of Newry and the Rector the Revd Scott McDonald.

We thank you for those who in past years pioneered the Grouping of these Parishes and all others who have since worshipped and served you in both places; those who taught the Christian Faith to others; those whose ministries have been a source of blessing over the years and those who have faithfully held various positions of responsibility in both congregations. In this Parish, and in our sister Parish of Magherahamlet, we pray that we would find ourselves living for others, moving outwards and being blessed in doing so. As you have put your name in both of our centres of worship, bless their witness to our day, and for generations yet to come.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord of Creation:

Look with favour on the earth you have made and which you have given us to cherish and protect. Guide the nations in the ways of justice and of peace, and through your Spirit bring all of them to knowledge of you. We praise you for giving to every nation its own culture and its own dignity. Bless Elizabeth our Queen, the Prime Minister Boris Johnston, the Secretary of State Brandon Lewis and the Government, all in the Legislative Assembly here in Northern Ireland, as well as President Michael D Higgins, the Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Tánaiste Leo Varadkar and Government in the Republic. May your Holy Spirit make us passionately aware of the needs in the society where we are set.

We pray for all serving in all ranks of the Armed Forces, the Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force. We remember also those whose devotion to duty and supreme sacrifice enabled the liberation of the Falkland Islands 40 years ago this week.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord of our relationships:

Awaken our hearts to your presence in all people: in those we love; in those whom we find it difficult to love, in those who differ from us and those who are familiar to us. May our Church be known throughout the communities in which we live as a place where all may come in hope and joy. May those of different ages and occupations, or religious and political opinions not be isolated from each other, but rather live and work together for the common good and find true community in the fellowship of Christ's people.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord of all healing:

We pray for the gift of life, with its blessings and sorrows. Shield the joyous. Comfort and strengthen those in any type of need or trouble, especially the sick. Relieve and protect those who are suffering in the conflict regions of the world especially Ukraine. Come in love to the oppressed peoples of Syria and Myanmar. We pray too for the war weary people of Ukraine. Amid the clash of powerful, selfish wills, let your will be done. On this day of celebration visit with your love those who are held back from coming to church through guilt or fear, or scorn and pride or indifference and lack of commitment. Draw them into the Christian fellowship which is the assembly of the faithful.

Lord in your mercy: **Hear our prayer**

Lord of eternity:

Bind us together by your Holy Spirit, in communion with all those of past generations who have worshipped you here who, having confessed the Faith, have died in the peace of Christ, that we may entrust ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to you, Lord God, and come with all your saints to the joys of your eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

**ALL**

**Merciful Father, accept these our prayers for the sake of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*The Rector says:*

**We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ and to drink his blood that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us. Amen.**

*Stand*

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.  
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.  
Peace from the Holy Spirit the Life-giver.

The Peace of the Triune God be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Celebrating at the Lord's Table*

*Hymn CH 330 (Tune CH 251)*

God is here! As we his people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of his Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font and pulpit,  
here the cross has central place;  
here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence as in speech,  
here in newness and renewal  
God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome  
in the Shepherd's flock and fold,  
here, as bread and wine are taken,  
Christ sustains us, as of old.

Here the servants of the Servant  
seek in worship to explore —  
what it means in daily living  
to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of Church and Kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel,  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive:  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you, we believe.

*The Taking of the Bread and Wine*

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us  
**Therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

*The Great Thanksgiving*

*The congregation may kneel*

The Lord is here.  
**His spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, almighty and everliving God, at all times and in all places it  
is right to give you thanks and praise:

And now we give you thanks for your blessing on this house of  
prayer where through your grace we offer you the sacrifice of praise  
and are built by your Spirit into a temple made without hands even  
the body of your Son Jesus Christ.

And so with all your people, with angels and archangels, and with  
all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious  
name, for ever praising you and singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full,  
full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest!  
Hosanna in the highest!**

Blessed are you, Father, the creator and sustainer of all things; you  
made us in your own image, male and female you created us; even  
when we turned away from you, you never ceased to care for us, but  
in your love and mercy you freed us from the slavery of sin, giving  
your only begotten Son to become man and suffer death on the  
cross to redeem us: he made there the one complete and all-  
sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world: he instituted, and  
in his holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory  
of his precious death until he comes again.

On the night that he was betrayed he took bread; and when he had  
given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying,  
Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you. Do this in  
remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup; and when he had  
given thanks to you, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of  
you, for this is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for you  
and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you  
drink it, in remembrance of me.

Therefore, Father, with this bread and this cup we do as Christ your  
Son commanded: **we remember his passion and death, we celebrate  
his resurrection and ascension, and we look for the coming of  
his kingdom.**

Accept through him, our great high priest this our sacrifice of praise  
and thanksgiving; and as we eat and drink these holy gifts, grant by  
the power of the life-giving Spirit that we may be made one in your  
holy Church and partakers of the body and blood of your Son, that  
he may dwell in us and we in him:

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, **all honour and glory are yours, Almighty Father, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom the power and the glory  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

*The Breaking of the Bread*

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.  
**We, being many, are one body for we all share in the one bread.**

Draw near with faith. Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Remember that he died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

*The President, other officiants and choir followed by the  
Congregation are invited to communicate*

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you have given us your servants grace,  
by the confession of a true faith,  
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal Trinity  
and in the power of the divine majesty to worship the Unity:  
Keep us steadfast in this faith,  
that we may evermore be defended from all adversities;  
for you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual  
food of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through  
him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your  
praise and glory. Amen.**

*The Blessing*

God the Holy Trinity  
make you strong in faith and love,  
defend you on every side,  
and guide you in truth and peace;  
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be with you and remain with you always. *(All sing)* **Amen.**

*Notices*

*Recessional Hymn CH 346*

Angel voices, ever singing  
round thy throne of light;  
angel harps, for ever ringing,  
rest not day nor night;  
thousands only live to bless thee,  
and confess thee,  
Lord of might.

Yea, we know that thou rejoicest —  
o'er each work of thine;  
thou didst ears and hands and voices  
for thy praise design;  
craftsman's art and music's measure  
for thy pleasure  
all combine.

In thy house, great God, we offer  
of thine own to thee;  
and for thine acceptance proffer,  
all unworthily,  
hearts and minds, and hands and voices,  
in our choicest  
psalmody.

Honour, glory, might, and merit,  
thine shall ever be,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
blessèd Trinity.  
Of the best that thou hast given,  
earth and heaven  
render thee.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Following this Service you are invited to light refreshments  
in the Parochial Hall in support of Christian Aid*

**Please remain seated following this service  
until advised by a Churchwarden**